

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

<i>Name</i>	<i>Elected</i>	<i>Oath of Office</i>	<i>CAA President</i>	<i>Retired</i>	<i>Deceased</i>
W.A. Horton	1906		1930		
R. Mellon	1945 ** 1947				
H. Kane	1955				
J. Seidlinger	1967				
Lloyd Sargeant	1978 **				
Robert C. Petersen	11/07/1978	12/05/1978	1992	12/02	
Gary Hazelton	03/05/2002				
Sean Saldavia					

Santa Cruz County was created on February 18, 1850. This is one of the original twenty-seven counties of the State of California. "Santa" is the Spanish feminine of "Saint" or "holy"; "Cruz" is the Spanish for "cross", and "Santa Cruz" signifies "holy cross", which was to the devout explorers of California what it was to the Crusaders. Those who fell by the wayside had a rude cross erected over them to mark their last resting place. If anything notable occurred in any of the expeditions, a cross was set up, and all that marked the site of the mission, which was founded by Padres Lopez and Salazar on September 25, 1791, was the memorial cross erected to mark this site. From this, the county derived its name. *

In the original act, the county was given the name of *Branciforte* after the Spanish pueblo founded there in 1797. Less than two months later, the name was changed to *Santa Cruz*. Established in 1791 and completed in 1794, the Santa Cruz Mission was destroyed by earthquake in 1857, but a smaller-scale replica was erected in 1931. ***

* H.M. Moreno, Moreno's Dictionary of Spanish-Named California Cities and Towns, (San Luis Obispo, CA, 1916)

** Appointed

*** California State Association of Counties, The Creation of California Counties